National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board to oversee implementation of road safety laws/guidelines recommended by the Sundar Committee, to the Government. The proposal for creation of the Board is under active process. The objectives/salient features of the Road Safety Policy recommended by the Committee are as under:—

- To promote awareness about road safety issues. This would also enable and empower the different stakeholders to play a meaningful role in promoting road safety.
- To establish a road safety information database.
- To ensure safer road infrastructure by way of designing safer roads, encouraging application of intelligent transport system etc.
- To ensure fitment of safety features in the vehicles at the stage of designing, manufacture, usage, operation and maintenance.
- To strengthen the system of driver licensing and training to improve the competence and capability of drivers.
- To take measures to ensure safety of vulnerable road users keeping in view the need of non-motorised transport as well as physically challenged persons.
- To create awareness on road safety education and training.
- To take appropriate measures for enforcement of safety laws.
- To ensure emergency medical attention for road accident victims.
- To encourage human resource development and R and D for road safety.
- To strengthen the enabling legal, institutional and financial environment for promoting road safety culture in the country.
- The implementation of the policy guidelines on road safety should be looked into by a dedicated agency, namely, National Road Safety and Traffic anagement Board.

Allocation for Rajasthan NH works

†1975. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount allocated for the original works on National Highways in Rajasthan is Rs. 1.33 lac per kilometer which is the lowest in the country and this allocation is much less than the amount allocated to other States;

(b) the action being taken by the Central Government to increase the allocation of amount for the maintenance of National Highways in big State like Rajasthan so that national average can be achieved; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The allocation for National Highways (NH) Original

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Works are made to the States depending upon the condition of the NHs, the works sanctioned for development/improvement of NHs, and overall availability of funds. However, the allocation made during 2008-09 for development of NHs under NH (Original) for the NHs entrusted with the State Government of Rajasthan is Rs. 106 crore and the total length of NHs entrusted with the State Government of Rajasthan is about 4132 km.

(b) and (c) The State-wise allocations of funds are made for carrying out various types of maintenance and repair (M and R) activities on NHs, such as Ordinary Repairs (OR), Periodical Renewal (PR), Flood Damage Repairs (FDR) and Special Repairs (SR), depending upon the overall availability of funds, length of NHs entrusted with the concerned States as well as their lane configurations, outstanding commitments for sanctioned works for FDR and SR, etc. and progress of expenditure.

National Highways in Assam

1976. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed any new road project during the year 2008-09 under NHAI in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of alternative National Highway from Guwahati *via* Hajo-Barpeta Lengtisinga to Abhyapuri in the district comprising Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta and Bongaigaon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not airse.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Foreign officers for Indian ships

1977. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has allowed the requests from Indian ship owners to employ foreign officers on board their ships in view of the severe shortage of trained maritime officers in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the conditions which have to be fulfilled by Indian ship owners before they are allowed to employ foreign officers;

(d) whether it is a fact that our country does not have the necessary infrastructure to train our youth for maritime industry;

(e) if so, the details of infrastructure available for training in maritime industry; and

(f) the steps taken to improve the situation in the near future?